

SCOTT COUNTY KICKER.

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NO. 20

WARS ABOUT OVER.

The end of all cruel wars is in sight. The "smart men" have been holding what they call "peace conferences," but if we are to judge from results, they only meet to "divide up the property" and agree on which weak nation to "civilize" next. That the peace conference scheme was first suggested by the Czar of Russia ought to be enough said.

But there is another force working for peace that promises entirely different results. For ages the working class of one nation have, under the pretense of patriotism and "the flag," been set against the working class of another nation. The rival armies would meet and, although the men who faced each other had no malice—except that pumped into them by hired politicians and subsidized newspapers—they were placed where they must either kill or be killed. And the irony of it all is, that with each army there is usually a "chaplain" out in the brush, praying to the Prince of Peace that the other army be slaughtered!

These warriors had done one another no harm. They were children of the same Father. And yet they are marched against each other for slaughter. On the result of battle depends the fortunes of this or that set of capitalist exploiters. And no matter which way the cut jumps, the workers remain workers—unless killed—and in addition to their usual denudery, must hit a few extra licks to pay the interest on the debt created by the war.

Although this little game has been successfully worked for ages, the toilers of all nations have only recently come to understand it, and they are now organizing just as the capitalists are organized—internationally—and say they will no longer slay their brothers.

And that will put an end to all wars. No longer will people be taxed to keep up useless armies and navies and a bunch of red-tape officers. Work people have been fooled into killing each other in battle just as they are yet fooled into killing each other's influence in the battle at the ballot box.

But a new sun is rising over the labor world—a new system of political economy not tutored by the Rockefeller nations—that the rulers of this and every other country are trying in vain to suppress. And in the not distant future you may behold their triumphant march through every land, and their unfurled banner will read:

"Peace on Earth,
Good will toward Men."

And you will hear no more about "our duty" and "our destiny" to rob the Cubans, the Hawaiians, the Philippines, or any other weak people in the interest of the sugar trust or any other trust.

POSTAL INSPECTORS ACTIVE.

As is customary a postoffice inspector, unexpectedly arrived in Malden the latter part of last week and proceeded to examine the post-office at this place. Everything met his approval until he opened a package that was intended to be forwarded as second-class mail. When, behold! he discovered a letter placed within the package, which is strictly prohibited. He immediately sent for the party who mailed the package and read the law to the said party and assessed a fine of \$10.00 as a penalty for the offense.—Malden Merit.

The average citizen will pass such happenings as the above by as a matter of course. But it has happened so often of late that it may be well to analyze its meaning—if we can.

Along comes a postoffice inspector, blows into the postoffice like a cyclone and begins to rifle the mails. If he finds an article of mail that does not conform to the "regulations"—for, mind you, the post-office today is not governed by law, but by the rulings of one despot at Washington—the offender is hauled in, tried, convicted and fined by the said inspector. Who are these inspectors that they assume the power of trial judges, and can act as prosecuting witness, judge, jury and collector?

But what is the use to inquire? They do it, and who has the right to question their authority?

Now let us look at another picture. For four months in every four years all the matter that passes through the mails all over the United States is weighed. From the result of the four months weighing an average is struck and for the succeeding four years the railroads are paid for hauling the mails accordingly.

It is known to every observer, and every government official knows that during the weighing season the mail bags are stuffed with old

junk to increase the weight. The weighing season for the present period began in February. To illustrate the extent of this steal I will take Chicago. Prior to the beginning of the present weighing season the average daily mail sent out from that office was 170,000 pounds. It now averages 270,000 pounds. Have you heard of any inspector "nosing" into that graft?

What is happening in Chicago is happening in all the large cities of the country, and without the aid and sanction of the postoffice authorities, it could not be. Then why are the postal inspectors, at this time, so busy watching the cross-roads postoffices?

Read what the Daily Socialist says of the situation in Chicago. Read it carefully and it may give you an idea of why the postoffice department is so handy with its "fraud orders" where Socialist papers are concerned:

There was a great hue and cry when it was discovered that \$173,000 had been stolen from the sub-treasury.

Nearly that amount is being stolen every day by the railroads from the postoffice.

This stealing is not done with any great attempt at secrecy. Every member of Congress knows that it is being done. Every post-office official is participes criminis.

President Roosevelt is fully aware of the operations of the thieves, and in spite of his desire to pose as the great trust tamer and regulator of railroads he does not raise a finger.

Neither is this stealing being done in some of the many legal ways that such work is frequently performed.

To be successful it requires the criminal connivance of the whole postoffice department from Roosevelt down.

This stealing consists in the artificial padding of the mails, during the weighing, which is now taking place.

For a period of several weeks, once in every four years, the mails are weighed, and on the result of that weighing the railroads are paid for the next four years.

This period has arrived for several of the railroads running out of Chicago, and as a result the clerks, under Postmaster Russo, are being forced to make up the difference in order to assist the railroads in standing from the government.

All sorts of junk are being loaded into mail bags and being carried back and forth in order to swell this weight.

Next, winter Congress will be told that the deficit in the postoffice is due to an excess of second-class matter, and a few Socialist papers will be delivered from the mails in order to reduce the deficit.

Speaking of "fraud orders" why are there no such orders issued against known criminal conspirators of the country? What crime is it that Standard Oil has not been proved guilty of? It has been proven guilty of theft, arson and murder—has blown up rival refineries and thereby killed the inmates—and yet not a Standard Oil official is behind prison bars—nor has his August Highness at Washington issued any "fraud orders" against this pirate organization.

The chief of this band always "squares things" by giving liberality of the foot to church, school, charity—and campaign fund.

THE CATTLE KING.

"A king, a cattle king" was what they called him, this man who came loaded with diamonds and free with money, to spend the winter in a mild Southern city. A king, and yet no royal blood in his veins! A self-made monarch—and his subjects! Only the lowing herds in the far-off West. His kingdom the frozen plains where his cattle are dying. For it is cheaper to lose half his subjects than to feed and protect the whole! He has left his ice-bound home, has closed his ears to the suffering beasts he wraps his great coat close about him and seeks pleasure! Can he shut out the cries that are piercing the winter nights beyond that mountain chain out towards the setting sun? Do not dream of the cattle—his subjects—suffering, starving, freezing and dead, haunt the pillow of this king! Murder!—surely this king did no murder. There is no blood on his hands. He only let his dumb beast starve or freeze to death—that is all!

But there is another King!—a King whose kingdom is the Universe—"And the cattle upon a thousand hills are His!" How will the cattle king stand on the day when deeds stand witness for and against us, and balanced against his gold will be the cattle—God's cattle—which he left on the plains without food or shelter, to die of slow starvation, that he might have more gold.—New Orleans Picayune.

Ladies' shirtwaists and Easter hats at Conletons, Morley. Call, see the styles and get the price.

Gov. Folk Has Called the Legislature Back April 9 to Try Again.



—Caption by Courtesy of the St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

ABOUT SENATOR BURTON.

Former United States Senator J. R. Burton, of Kansas, who was convicted of what practically every other representative in Washington is guilty of, was released from the Iron County jail last week, where he served a sentence of six months.

Mr. Burton is not what is popularly regarded as a criminal. He did just what is regarded as "business," and what men go to congress for. In addition to "representing the people" he acted as "attorney" (\$2500 fee) for a skin game corporation known as the Rialto Grand and Investment Co., of St. Louis.

However, the graft concern represented by Burton was a small affair—not big enough to have high officials and court judges of its own. It was one of those "bait" affairs that the Napoleon of Finance will not tolerate. To be immune from punishment it is necessary to be a high degree of itself.

And that is why Burton went to jail. It was for the same reason that the man who steals a loaf of bread is a thief, while the man who steals a railroad, or a million acres of land, is a shrewd business man. It was for the same reason that a poor man who slays his neighbor is a murderer, while the rich man who commits a similar act is the victim of "brain storms."

Had Burton represented Standard Oil, Sugar, Steel, Railroads, Express, Telegraph, or any of the upper crust pirate band, he would never have gone to jail, but would probably be in the United States court or the presidency.

Big Business never allows its representatives slide backward in the public service. The more brazen they are, and the more they can corrupt other men, the higher up they go. Organized greed has many faults, but it never "lays down" on a faithful servant. See what Standard Oil did for Senator Bailey of Texas. See how the Missouri Pacific Ry. is taking care of James M. Seibert.

Mr. Burton returned to his Abilene, Kan., home, where he was enthusiastically received. He will start a newspaper.

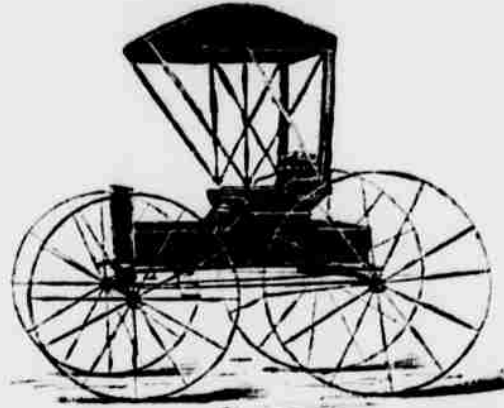
The gambut Wasp that the government started up the Mississippi to get recruits for the army and navy, returned after reaching Cairo. Evidently it was a "water haul." The government is trying hard to induce young men to join the army, but the rank and file are beginning to understand that they are only wanted to protect the property of the rich and refuse to go.

FARMERS' UNION, NOTICE.

The second meeting of Farmers' Union of Scott county will convene at Blodgett on Friday night, April 5 and continue until Saturday evening, April 6. There are now 32 unions in the county with an approximate membership of 700.

This will call for about 120 delegates. Delegates should try to be there Friday night. All members are welcome. Arrangements will be made to entertain delegates over night. J. E. KERSHAW, Organizer.

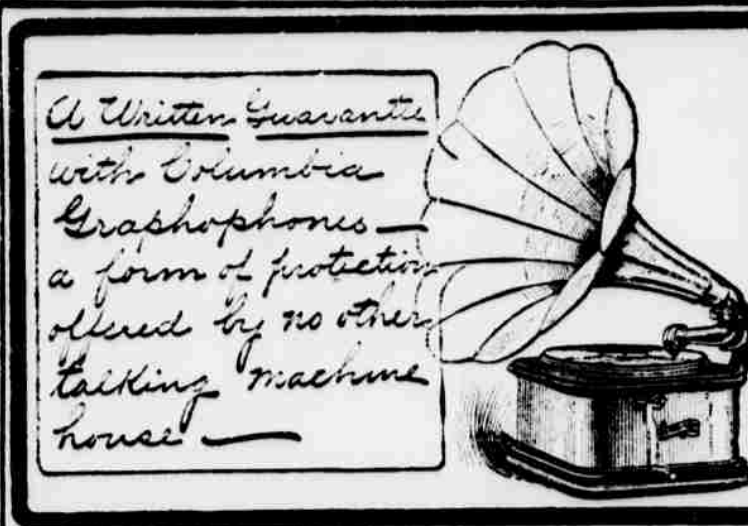
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THERE'S A MEANING!

Do you know the meaning of this unrest? Do you realize that this condition is the result of a cause and that it, in turn, is the cause of things about to be?

Do not the troubles and assassinations indicate the breaking up of the old systems? Does not history prove that the breaking up of the same systems in western Europe was accompanied by the same phenomena?

And does not the social unrest in America, as well as in Europe, indicate the early change that will be and must be? Look behind the horseplay of state legislatures—the countless discussions in congress—look behind the perfecting organizations of capitalists and the growing solidarity of the workers, and see the situation and unrest in the thought of the people that demand state their disgust of the things that are.

See the heavy papers that advertise in their news columns the corruption of the ruling class. Do you not realize that this is a protest because the people are demanding the truth about the system, hidden as it is? Do you not realize that this demand for exposure is a premonition of what is expected in the near future?

You know how the anti-slavery agitation grew and grew until it crystallized in a sentiment and force that wiped that institution out of existence. Do you not know that the similar force in sentiment is growing against capitalists against their methods and attitudes? That you may not see anything—the situation of the states where all the trouble is.

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That is what the socialists are thinking, and that thought is a burning. Had they been wise they would have tried their success for a favorable result. With their efforts, they were not looking for this battle now concerning them, instead of dumping everything which has the power to refuse this year.

The people are naturally becoming more and more restless. They are not satisfied with the present system of government. They are not satisfied with the present system of government.

It is the ruling class, however, that is responsible for the present situation. They are not satisfied with the present system of government. They are not satisfied with the present system of government.

The people have asked for freedom from something. It is not a matter of whether that something is more or less than the hands of the rulers, or not they demand a change in the system. To refuse, the demand and their millions in expenditure and slavery does nothing in the feeling against the rule.

There are thousands of distressed people today, to one hundred years ago. There is more making of economic matter by the people than a week from time and again, twelve months ago. It is high time for working people to put their eyes and minds to the situation. The rich are too blinded by their possessions to heed your needs or your wishes.

A peaceful solution of the problem requires the action of every intelligent worker. Don't wait until oppression comes so heavy to produce an explosion. If you know no more except brute force, it left to its own resources, ignore any, Sansonville, pull down the pillars of the capitalist temple upon your head as well as upon its own, and involve all in a common calamity.

But such an outcome is unnecessary. A new and higher social order is knocking for admittance. Will you greet it with a glad hand or with a club?

The trial of the officers of the Western Federation of Miners has again been side-tracked. The case is now set for April 15. A motion by the attorneys for the miners to dismiss on the ground that the law and the constitution guaranteed a speedy trial, was overruled by the court. A motion for change of venue is now pending.

A Socialist candidate for alderman of Chicago is serving a six months sentence in jail for "contempt of court." And there seems to be a prospect of his election. He is conducting his campaign from his cell. Working men are beginning to regard a jail sentence as a badge of honor.

Will the lobby be on hand April 9? Will a duck swim?

WHAT'S HAPPENED?

Have you seen anything about our "unprecedented prosperity" in the big papers for over a week. Wonder what's happened? They told us that the doings in Wall Street only hit the big gamblers.

Isn't it funny how they try to keep it mum that the bottom fell out of their prosperity wagon? If you want to find out if there really is a panic headed this way, suppose you "sidle" up to your local banker and try to borrow a little money, and note how that prosperity story has changed to a hard luck story about "tight money." See it has done "bunch" you for a good, stiff "premium" in advance in addition to the maximum rate of interest.

And over at Washington the Secretary of the Treasury is shoveling the people's money into the banks and is accepting interest on railroad bonds and any old thing as security.

Whom are you? It is the beginning of the end of capitalist exploitation. And the fact that the socialist newspapers refuse to admit the truth is most positive that they fear the worst.

WHAT IS LEGAL TENDER?

What is legal tender? The word comes from a man who had become involved in a dispute over an account. The matter was referred to court, and the man's lawyer told him formally to offer the amount due in "legal tender."

When he went to make the offer he began to have doubts as to just what legal tender was, and he was not ashamed to ask his lawyer. His lawyer thought a moment and said: "Now, what is a 'legal tender'?"

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